



# ESSays

## The Newsletter for the Eastern Sociological Society

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### Newsletter has a new name: ESSays!

The newsletter needed to have a new name to go along with the new look. Buried deep on page 17 of the fall newsletter was the Name the newsletter contest. It was also a test to see if you were really reading the newsletter). The submissions are in and the winner has been selected by a panel of judges made up of past and current presidents, the executive office and the newsletter staff. Our winner is **Laurel Smith-Doerr**. Professor Smith-Doer is an Assistant Professor at Boston University and the author of *Women's Work: Gender Equality vs. Hierarchy in the Life Sciences* (2004, Lynne Rienner) Thanks to Laurel for the great name!



### From the President's Pen

Dear Friends and Members of ESS,

I want to take a moment to thank Phil Kasinitz and Emily Mahon and all of the hard working people – especially the program committee – who worked so hard to make our recent meeting a success. Now, if they could just learn to control the weather! Never mind, some say that the snow storm kept us focused on the panels. Personally, I didn't think that took too much persuasion. The quality of the

meeting sessions was fantastic by all reports.

But what did you think? I want to solicit any comments you have to offer or suggestions for improvement that we can put into practice next year. The members of the Executive Committee have lots of ideas about how to take advantage of our location in the Big Apple next February, but we'd love to hear yours. Please just take a moment out to email me ([knewman@princeton.edu](mailto:knewman@princeton.edu)) and give me your thoughts.

As you know, we are going to emphasize the global at our next meeting. As you think about papers you might want to work on, consider some of the following possibilities:

- Take any aspect of sociological work, from the study of organizations, law, medicine, the professions, migration, street gangs, women's lives, children's culture, and focus on how these domains play out in other cultures, other countries.
- Is the nation state the appropriate unit of analysis now? How should sociologists contribute to the study of the European Union, the Organization of African States? What new work should we undertake in studying the institutions that link the US with these regions (the World Bank, USAID, the IMF)?
- As of this writing, the US is fighting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's time to reconsider the sociology of the military experience. How have these conflicts changed or reinforced our understanding of the impact of military service on the trajectories of young men and women, on families left behind, on political consciousness?
- What does the US look like from the perspective of those who are thinking of migrating, long before they arrive on our shores? How do transnational flows "pre-adapt" migrants to the American experience? How do Mexicans see the US when they are still in Mexico? How do racial and ethnic structures in New York neighborhoods or Boston enclaves filter back to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic or Ghana?
- What do we know about return migration? The Boston Globe reports today that there is a whole area of County Kerry in Ireland called "Little Boston," because so many Irish have returned to their home country, bringing their US born children with them. That one way ticket has become a round trip for over 150,000 people of Irish birth since 2001.

These are examples of research domains that fit well into "Beyond Ourselves," the theme of the 2008 meeting. Of course, most of the meeting will focus on papers on many other topics, high quality authors and their critics, conversations with "notables" in our discipline, and, we hope, a series of domestic problems that will undoubtedly return to the front burner next February, the height of the election season. We will try to focus attention on questions like the impact of investment (or divestment) in public higher education, prisons, pre-Kindergarten, rescue workers and care work. After years of a nearly complete focus on the war, the election will circle us back to the domestic agenda sociologists study.

Call for papers is out. Deadlines will be early (October 1) since the meeting is in February. So we hope you will give some thought to papers, prize nominations, etc.

Many thanks for your continued support and participation in the Eastern Sociological Society.

Best wishes,

Katherine Newman

### Special points of interest:

- 2007 Merit Award
- The Origins of Sociological Forum
- Komarovskiy Book Award
- Meet the President
- Conversation with Craig Calhoun
- Eastern Chapter of Sociologist for Women in Society

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## Editor's Corner



Debra Lemke, Editor

I would like to report to the membership what a wonderful annual meeting we had. I am especially happy because there was such a bounty of material for the newsletter. Some of which you will see in this issue and some in the Fall issue.

As you can see the newsletter is a work in progress. I am grateful to all the contributors for their submission to this issue. It is their labor and talent that make the newsletter

worth reading.

I am continuing to offer columns in each issue that I hope will be useful and informative to the membership. In this issue you will find selected highlights from the annual meeting.

I am particularly pleased in the level of interest you have shown in contributing your stellar accomplishments for the Noteworthy column. Please continue to send me news about society members for

inclusion in that section.

For the next issue, I am particularly interested in book reviews, and notes on cutting edge research. Submission deadline for the Fall issue is August 15. Also send in position announcements, call for papers, and other opportunities of interest to the membership.

I welcome your feedback on the issue and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

“...Nearly 1100 people were registered...”

## From the Exec Office

Whew! Another meeting "in the books" – and it was indeed one for the books! A very unwelcome guest in the form of the "St. Patrick's Day Storm" certainly

added to the noteworthiness of the conference.

For those of you who are not familiar with the nightmares of meeting planning, a snowstorm tops the list of things worried about by the ESS leadership – its impact on attendance and, financially critical, its impact on "room nights" at the hotel. Given the severity of the storm, which

essentially shut down the eastern seaboard and points inward, the statistical impact was less than it could have been (room nights were protected by the fact that for each person who could not get in, there was a least one guest who could not get out...), the impact on individuals ran high. We are most grateful to those who braved the storm and forged through – and we are so sorry that so many, despite their best efforts, could not make it.

Nearly 1100 people were registered – which compares very favorable with last year's 1125 attendees – and given the circumstances, is phenomenal. Participants came from near (Philadelphia) and far (Berkeley, CA; Paris, France). There were over 268 sessions, with over 900 presenters (including 81 undergraduate Poster exhibitors). There were a record high 48 Department members this year whose participation helped bring in undergraduates and helped fund the coffee breaks in the Book Exhibit. An-

other first this year, we had over 20 authors signed up for the New Book Reception on Saturday in the Book Exhibit – and most of them were able to make it. The response, from both those visiting at the New Books tables and from the authors themselves was most favorable.

The highlights of the meeting will be covered in detail elsewhere, but, from my own personal sampling, I found round-tables that did not want to end, hallway conversations that blocked traffic, and lively receptions that witnessed reunions and new encounters that could result in new work for next year.

Two life passages that need to be noted: First, Charles and Mary Sue Willie celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with us – apparently retracing their earlier steps since the conclusion of their honeymoon was spent at a Philadelphia ESS conference! And, as many of you may have noticed, we had the youngest Registration worker ever – 6 week old Daniel, son of Christel Hyden, whose great organizational skills and wonderful disposition keep us all un-cranky even in the worst of circumstances!

## Emily Mahon





## Meet the New President

Katherine S. Newman is the Malcolm Forbes Class of 1941 Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs and the incoming Director of the Institute for International and Regional Studies at Princeton University. Formerly the Dean of Social Science at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the Malcolm Wiener Professor of Urban Studies in the John F. Kennedy School of Government,

Newman is the author of eight books on topics ranging from urban poverty to middle class economic insecurity. Her most recent book, *Chutes and Ladders: Navigating the Low Wage Labor Market* analyzes the trajectories of minority workers from poor households as they moved into the tight labor markets of the late 1990s. With Victor Chen, she has just completed *The Missing Class* (Beacon Press, 2007), an analysis of the near poor in American society.

With colleagues at the Indian Institute for Dalit Studies, she is working on four related projects on labor market discrimination. In the summer of 2006, she completed a five country study focused on the prolonged stay of young

people in their parents homes in Western Europe and Japan and this summer will be adding in a US component (Failure to Launch, anyone?)

Newman has won a number of awards, including the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book Prize and the Hillman Book Award, and appears frequently on public radio and television in the U.S. and Canada.

*"... the author of 8 books on topic ranging from urban poverty to middle class economic insecurity ..."*

## 2007 Merit Award Winner: Judith Lorber

*Remarks by Robin Leidner at the Award Ceremony in Philadelphia in March 2007:*

"It is my pleasure to present the 2007 Merit Award of the Eastern Sociological Society to Judith Lorber, Professor Emerita of Sociology and Women's Studies at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. The Merit Award recognizes distinguished contributions to the discipline, to the profession, and to the Society. Professor Lorber's contributions as a scholar, writer, editor, organizer, and activist have been truly formidable. The discipline looks quite different than it did when she received her Ph.D., in part because of her work to give women a full voice within the profession and to reshape scholarship to take account of the significance of gender.

"A pioneer in medical sociology as well as the sociology of gender, Professor Lorber has published widely in these fields



and has enhanced the impact of innumerable other sociologists' research through her distinguished editorial work, including her service as founding editor of *Gender & Society*. Her service to the ESS has been extensive, including terms as president, vice president, and Robin Williams Distinguished Lecturer. She has also been president of Sociologists for Women in Society and chair of the Sex and

Gender section of the American Sociological Association. Her research and teaching have been international in scope, including time in Israel, Finland, and Germany, and she is indefatigable as a maker of connections, spreader of information, and network builder.

"I am proud to present the ESS Merit Award to a truly outstanding sociologist and admirable worker for social justice.

*"The discipline looks quite different... in part because of her to give women a full voice within the profession and to reshape scholarship to take account of the significance of gender."*

## Spotlight on Philadelphia

David Grazian

The recent Eastern Sociological Society annual meetings provided the opportunity for over twenty colleagues conducting research in and around Philadelphia to share their findings on a variety of subjects ranging from urban crime to neighborhood gentrification to public education. The first of our six panels spotlighting research on Philadelphia began with an invigorating talk by Tukufu Zuberi (Penn) on the legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois and his masterwork *The Philadelphia Negro*. This was followed by an exciting session on the relationship between local culture and urban development in Philadelphia. Jerome Hodos (Franklin and Marshall) explained how recent arts projects in the city (including the Avenue of the Arts and the Kimmel Center) helped forge a workable governing coalition in the city during Ed Rendell's two mayoral terms during the 1990s. Mark Stern (Penn) and Susan Seifert (Penn) relied on their enormous network data set of creative personnel and cultural organizations in the city to propose a challenge to Richard Florida's overblown hypotheses laid out in *The Rise of the Creative Class*. Frederick Wherry (Michigan) presented ethnographic research on the cultural development of a local Latino neighborhood and its efforts to overcome its longstanding reputation as a dangerous inner-city barrio. Finally, Joshua Sevin, our guest from the City of Philadelphia's Commerce Department, discussed a number of local efforts to bolster the city's "knowledge industries" in technology and higher education by retaining talented college students upon graduation.

Our third panel spotlighted the terrain of social inequality surrounding the city's racially segregated public high schools. Three advanced graduate students from the University of Pennsylvania presented their ethnographic dissertation research conducted in the city. Faye Allard uncovered how young black female students deemphasize the importance of local "role models," finding inspiration instead from celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and Tyra Banks. Maia Cucchiara discussed how the city markets urban public schools to professional families with varying degrees of success, while Raymond Gunn illustrated how black male students negotiate the socially complex world of the inner city by performing masculinity in ways that sometimes rub up against the institutional requirements for college preparatory learning. Grace Kao (Penn) provided helpful feedback to the panelists.

The most attended panel of the Spotlight on Philadelphia sessions paid tribute to the city's own Erving Goffman with a series on presentations examining public interaction among strangers in and around Philadelphia. Randall Collins (Penn) explained how performances of violent behavior on city streets rarely amount to more than rituals of bluster among ill-tempered but surprisingly risk-averse antagonists. David Gibson (Penn) offered preliminary findings on how queues form at Philadelphia's 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station, while David Grazian (Penn) shared confessional tales of the hustles and confidence games employed by male and female thrill-seekers "on the make" in the city's nightclubs and cocktail lounges. Finally, Elijah Anderson (Penn) updated the audience on his ethnographic research on the local code of Philadelphia's urban streets, and former Goffman student Eviatar Zerubavel (Rutgers) gave detailed commentary on the presenters' work and their debt to the great sociologist of social behavior and human interaction.

The recent attention given to the concept of social capital illustrates the value of understanding how social structures are both constituted and mediated by interpersonal networks. For his 2006 edited volume *Social Capital in the City* political scientist Richardson Dilworth (Drexel) compiled an interdisciplinary collection of case studies organized around Philadelphia's varied social worlds, and at our fifth Spotlight on Philadelphia session he presented the book's major findings along with three chapter contributors. Political scientist Barbara Ferman (Temple) explained how the University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia partners with local foundations and youth programs to provide inner-city adolescents with social justice learning workshops, and leadership and media skills necessary for community organizing in their neighborhoods. Community advocate and Penn Ph.D. Patricia Stern Smallacombe (United Way of Bucks County) presented her ethnographic work on neighborhood isolation in the white working-class Kensington area, while Valeria Harwell (Penn State-Abington) illustrated through survey data the extent to which African American churches in Philadelphia (and their active female members) remain important anchors for their communities. This discussion provided a relevant prelude to our final local session of the meetings, a panel on urban poverty in Philadelphia. Patrick Carr (Rutgers) presented his research on "Youth Dispositions toward the Police in Three High-Crime Neighborhoods," while Dennis Culhane (Penn) drew on years of expertise in an illuminating talk on the dynamics of homelessness and public housing in Philadelphia.



Ess Members Browse the book exhibits

## Report from the Committee on the Status of Women

The ESS Committee on the Status of Women's (CSW's) purpose is to promote and highlight the success of women in the ESS organization, emphasize the challenges that women continue to face in the organization and the profession, provide panels and training focused on women's academic, professional and research issues, and to alert the larger ESS audience to the importance of understanding how these issues affect women.

To accomplish this goal, the CSW sponsored 4 sessions at the ESS Annual Meetings, provided an insert in the meeting registration packet highlighting the successes and remaining inequalities of women in academia, and worked in conjunction with the Eastern Sociologists for Women in Society, which serves as a networking resource for ESS/SWS members. The sessions focus on 1) teaching issues for women, 2) professional needs of women, 3) work-life concerns among women in the profession, and 4) research on and for women.

Our teaching issues panel this year was "Succeeding in Smaller Institutions". This panel session, featuring four sociology faculty from three liberal arts colleges, examined the challenges and rewards of working in smaller academic settings. This year's professional needs of women panel was "Women of Color in the Profession: Challenges in Teaching, Research, and Practice." This panel was a continuation of the conversation last winter regarding "Teaching Issues Women Face". The work-life concerns among women in the profession panel this year was an Author Meets Critic session focused on Katharin Zippel's book, "The Politics of Sexual Harassment: A Comparative Study of the United States, the European Union, and Germany". Our session on research on and for women was co-sponsored by the national Carework Network. This paper session, "Doing Research On Women,



Katharin Zippel

About Women and For Women" highlighted four projects being undertaken by researchers with a focus on women.

The CSW has expanded its role and visibility in the ESS organization in recent years. To this end, our ability to do this would be hampered twenty-fold without the diligent work of our committee members. We would like to take this

opportunity to thank Joanne Ardovini, Michelle Budig, Esther N. Chow, Cynthia Cook, Carolyn Corrado, Denise Copelton, Phyllis Kitzerow, Carrie Lee Smith and Gayle Sulik. In addition, the Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to Medora Barnes, as entering co-chair. Medora will be working with continuing co-chair Laura West Steck.

The CSW committee sought and gained approval for a staggered co-chair for the CSW at the ESS business meeting. While the committee welcomes ESS President appointees to the committee, we requested approval to appoint new chairs of the CSW from the active membership roster. This will ensure that the committee members who are most active, rather than most networked, will be promoted to a leadership position. To do this, we have proposed that the previous co-chair remain on for an additional year to train the new co-chair. To this end, Laura West Steck will be serving one additional year as the CSW co-chair as she trains Medora. In this same fashion, Medora will remain co-chair for an additional year as she trains a new co-chair. Finally, Laura would like to extend many thanks to exiting co-chair, Tamara L. Smith. Tamara has worked assiduously over the past two years to ensure that the CSW offers interesting and significant contributions to the annual ESS Meetings. She will continue as an active member of the Committee.

In order for the CSW to continue to offer quality sessions, panels, and workshops at annual ESS meetings, we are seeking new members to coordinate and participate in CSW sponsored sessions. We are interested in recruiting junior members of ESS (i.e. students, new faculty, new ESS members) to coordinate and volunteer on our sponsored sessions. We would also like to enlist the experience and expertise of senior members to serve as established contacts, resources, and mentors within our committee. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact Laura West Steck at [lsteck@ycp.edu](mailto:lsteck@ycp.edu) or Medora at [medora.barnes@uconn.edu](mailto:medora.barnes@uconn.edu).

Submitted by **Laura West Steck and Tamara L. Smith**

*"CSW's purpose is to promote and highlight the successes of women in the ESS organization, emphasize the challenges that women continue to face..."*



Undergraduate Poster Session

## On the Profession: From Tenure Track to Tenure: Tips for Navigating the Path Successfully

*“ The more people across campus who ... respect you the more likely you will have people advocate for you.”*

“If I knew then what I know now.” Famous last words, right? When it comes to the tenure process, information is empowering and ignorance is definitely not bliss. We organized a workshop at the recent ESS meeting in Philadelphia to share advice and some experiences with graduate students and junior faculty members. Our goal was to enhance the participants’ knowledge about the tenure process and make them aware of potential obstacles and miscues. Our underlying objective was to encourage people to plan ahead with the big picture in mind. We began with advice from Peter who used the metaphor of a road trip:

**Know where you are going.** Make sure that you know what’s expected of you to get tenure and promotion. Don’t assume anything! There may be an official written policy but this may be different than the “current” policy. Ask your chairperson, your Dean, the Provost, and your colleagues. All of these people will probably review your dossier so it’s important that you meet their expectations. You can only do this if you know what their expectations are.

**Try to map out a reasonable plan of action.** Assuming you know what’s expected of you, it’s helpful to have a sense of what you hope to accomplish in your teaching, research, and service. For example, if you know you need peer reviews of your teaching every year, then try to plan these around some of the stronger lessons or topics you cover. If you know you need to publish at least 4 articles, then you should have a sense of what these articles will be on and when you will begin working on them. If you know that you need to serve on a campus-wide committee, then you should begin exploring the different options.

**Keep an eye out for detours.** Once you know what the expectations are and once you have a plan of action mapped out, be prepared for changes; they are inevitable so you need to be able to adapt. Keep your eyes focused ahead so that you can anticipate sudden changes and modifications. Newly appointed administrators (chair, dean, provost, president, etc.) may try to implement their own ideas about what’s expected for tenure and reappointment. Classes may get cancelled forcing you to pick up a new preparation. And ad-hoc departmental committees may be created from year to year to address some new issue or policy. All of these changes may affect the balance of your teaching, research and service. By constantly scanning the landscape you may be able to anticipate changes on the horizon and subsequently, you will be better situated to map out a new course of action.

**Ask for directions.** There are no special prizes for navigating this path by yourself. Ask your colleagues in your department and across campus for guidance, insight, and tips. There is so much hidden and valuable knowledge about preparing your dossier, having peer evaluations of your teaching, seeking external reviewers, choosing journals to submit your work to, figuring out which campus committees are not too onerous, etc. You don’t want to find these answers the hard way. Generally, people like to offer their expertise. By asking others for assistance not only do you help ensure the previous two points but you also present yourself as a humble, receptive, and welcoming colleague.

**Pave bridges, don’t destroy them.** There is no point in alienating people that you work with. This includes people in your department, faculty in other departments and even students and staff. You never know who may turn out to have a say in your tenure review. If there is a central committee on tenure and reappointment it is likely that the people serving on this committee will come from all over campus. The more people across campus who know you and respect you the more likely you will have people advocating for you. It may even help to try to introduce yourself to at least one person a week such as when you ride the elevator or attend a faculty meeting.

Also remember that faculty and staff across campus will be serving on committees that will probably have a say as to whether you get an internal grant, a pre-tenure sabbatical, or a committee position. All of these things will ultimately be important for your tenure review as well as your overall professional development.

**Make use of rest stops along the way.** The 5-7 years it normally takes to get tenure can be long and stressful. Make sure you take rests along the way. If necessary, force yourself to be totally work free for at least a week or two. Don’t check e-mail, don’t read any books, and don’t write down any ideas for articles or teaching exercises. Your body and mind need time to recharge—at least once a year.

**Have a nice trip!** In Graham Greene’s novel, *The Heart of the Matter*, one of the characters says, “you can’t desire the end without desiring the mean.” I’ve always tried to follow this advice although in our goal-driven society it’s sometimes difficult. It’s easy to lose sight of the path and focus exclusively on the goal. Whenever possible, engage in research and scholarly activities that you enjoy and that excite you, teach classes (and teach in such a way) that you feel invested in, and participate in service work with people you like spending time with. You won’t be able to do these things all of the time but by doing them some of the time you will enjoy the process much more and ultimately you will be more productive.

*“ ...you can’t desire the end with desiring the mean...”*

As for Todd, he is learning about the tenure process as he goes. Now in his third year as an assistant professor, he is approximately halfway along the tenure-track path. He makes sure to chat with his colleagues at Niagara University about tenure as often as he can, recognizing that expectations for tenure are often institution-specific. In fact, he recently e-mailed his tenured colleagues to ask: "If you had only one bit of advice to give about the tenure process, what would it be?" He shared the following words of wisdom from his colleagues at the ESS session:

**Publish, publish, publish.** The obstacle for most people is publications. Certainly, it is expected that a faculty member be an excellent teacher and provide service at all levels (department, college, university, community, and the discipline), but the area that is most likely to cause problems is scholarship. The one piece of advice I would give to a faculty member seeking tenure is to publish, publish, publish.

**Publish to stay and publish to go.** You publish for two reasons--you publish to stay and you publish to go. If you don't publish you are not in control of your own destiny. If you do publish then you control your career trajectory. Teaching and service matter but publications are the gold standard.

**Jettison your perfectionist tendencies.** Get your research out and circulating. If it is a book you want to publish start approaching publishers; if you plan to publish articles push them out as quickly as possible. No matter how good your work is revisions will be necessary, so spending excessive amounts of time refining your work is simply a waste of time.

**Think of the tenure process as making an argument.** You are essentially arguing that you have met the criteria for tenure (whatever they may be), and providing the data that backs up your claim. With that in mind, your reality check is: Have I made a persuasive argument yet? What do I still need to do to make it?

**Seek out critical feedback.** In my experience the people doing the peer review find it very difficult to offer recommendations and only offer positive feedback. Everyone has something to work on. You may not want this feedback in writing but you do need to know what needs to be improved. It is much easier for the University wide promotion and tenure committee to be critical because they don't have to face you but you don't want to wait until that time to get the information. When everything comes back rosy ask for some advice on what to improve.

**The tenure process is highly political.** As a result, I would recommend avoiding controversial issues that would "make waves" with the administration. New faculty should keep a low profile and work hard on their research agenda.

**Try to turn graduate school work (no matter how preliminary) into publications.** It is hard to begin new research from scratch when developing new course offerings. And early publications take the stress out of the process.

**Conference papers are good but they're not enough.** Rather than depend on conference papers to establish a "record of scholarship," use conference papers as a means for working toward publications.

As for Todd's own advice, he offered the following suggestions based on his experiences as a junior faculty member:

**Be mindful of your reputation.** I am the diplomatic type; I am not one to make waves. Perhaps you are the type that likes to make noise. Either way, I recommend thinking carefully about the reputation you want to develop at your institution. I believe that every interaction counts--at committee meetings, at university functions, even in e-mail exchanges. Think about how you are going to conduct yourself at committee meetings and university functions. Think carefully about the type of colleague you want to be in your department. Across campus and in your own department, choose your battles carefully. Reputations are inevitable, so be aware of the one you are forming.

**Know your contract!** I used to think it was strange that one of my colleagues seemed to know every detail of our contract. I never pictured myself as becoming an expert on our contract. But now I recognize that being very familiar with the contract is empowering. For example, at my institution, being familiar with the contract helps you understand how to request course reductions to support your research activity. How do you know what to ask for if you don't know what you can ask for? If you have questions about the content of your contract, ask your colleagues and union representatives for clarification. Get to know your union representatives.

**Be patient.** The ideal situation takes time to develop. In a perfect world you would always be teaching in your areas of interest and strength. In the real world this isn't always possible. I taught outside of my areas of interest and strength for several years. I wasn't even in a Sociology department. In my experience, though, it was worth being outside of my comfort zone. Although I often felt like a fish out of water, I was fortunate because I had great colleagues. I learned from them what it takes to be a good colleague. I also learned how a successful department is run. Furthermore, I received a lot of valuable advice from colleagues about the tenure process. Recently, an opportunity allowed me to join the Sociology department and now I do teach in my areas of interest and strength. I was patient, and everything worked out.

**Some concluding words:** Often in academia, we focus on the moment. A person works diligently on a dissertation, and upon a successful defense might think: "I've arrived." The person then focuses on getting a tenure-track position. Upon being hired, the person might think: "Now I've really arrived." The person then discovers the criteria for tenure. The person works conscientiously to ensure (s)he has met the expectations for tenure. Now, as an associate professor, the person might think: "I'm serious this time, I've really really arrived." The person then looks into the process of applying for a sabbatical, and hopes one day to become a full professor. The point, as you can guess, is that there is always a next step. Though it is hard to think ahead, and it is challenging to work with the big picture in mind, we think it is wise to try.

**Todd Schoepflin (Niagara University) and Peter Kaufman (SUNY New Platz)**

## Mini-Conference: “The Importance of Being Conceptual”



Annette Lareau, Barbara Ehrenreich, and Arlie Russell Hochschild

“The Importance of Being Conceptual: Exploring the Sociological Contributions of Arlie Russell Hochschild,” this year’s ESS conference-within-a-conference, brought together a wide range of scholars who have built on Hochschild’s work to explore the sociologies of emotions, work/family, care work, and globalization. The idea for holding a mini-conference to explore the impact of Hochschild’s work was formed when the organizers of the conference, Annette Lareau (Univ. of Maryland, ESS Vice-President), Karen V. Hansen (Brandeis University), and Anita I. Garey (Univ. of Connecticut), former students of Hochschild’s, learned last year that Hochschild was about to retire from the University of California at Berkeley, where she taught for more than thirty years.

The event-filled day featured a plenary by Barbara Ehrenreich, three paper-presentation sessions in which panelists discussed the use in their own work of such concepts as “emotion work,” “feelings rules,” and “economies of gratitude,” and a wrap-up “Conversation with Arlie Hochschild,” facilitated by Troy Duster (New York Univ.). Intentionally long (twenty-five minute) coffee breaks between the sessions allowed enough time for attendees to mingle and exchange ideas in an informal atmosphere. The smooth functioning of the conference, from monitoring coffee supplies and powerpoint equipment to the sale of *The Time Bind* (copies donated by Metropolitan Books and proceeds contributed to ESS) was due in no small part to the assistance of graduate student volunteers, Aleia Clark (Univ. of Maryland) Vanessa Lopes (Univ. of Maryland) and Amy Steinbuegler (Temple Univ.). Along with the Eastern Sociological Society, the mini-conference was co-sponsored by Boston College (Sociology Dept.), Brandeis University (Sociology Dept.), Harvard University (The W.E. B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research), Swarthmore College (Sociology and Anthropology Dept., Office of Alumni Relations), Syracuse University (Sociology Dept.), the University of California Press, University of Connecticut (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dept. of Human Development & Family Studies, Sociology Dept., Women’s Studies Program), University of Delaware (Dept of Sociology & Criminal Justice), and University of Maryland (Maryland Population Research Center, Sociology Dept., Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity).

In a session on “the emotional work of creating families,” Annette Lareau,



Foreground: Katherine Newman, Arlie Hochschild, Troy Duster, Magali Larsen

Patricia Berhau, and Julie Press (Univ. of Maryland) examined the invisible work that constitutes the management of children's activities – and its gendered dimensions. Rosanna Hertz (Wellesley College) focused on the problem of managing feeling in a situation for which feeling rules do not yet exist -- the forging of kinship relations between children whose mothers used the same sperm donor. And Marjorie DeVault (Syracuse Univ.) explored how parenting is performed during family outings in public places.

The session on “commercialism and global markets” began with Jerry Jacobs’ (Univ. of Pennsylvania) analysis of Hochschild’s influence as measured by citation rates over time – an impressive quantitative look at the interdisciplinary impact of her qualitative work. Kimberly McClain DaCosta (Harvard Univ.) examined the advertising industry’s use of interracial-looking models to commercialize “interracial intimacy.” And Nazli Kibria (Boston Univ.) presented a compelling argument about the erasure of family in studies of globalblization.

A session on “ideology, meaning, and visibility” took familiar concepts in new directions, or, as Margaret K. Nelson (Middlebury College) told the audience, “I’m going to put on some new shoes to retreat some ground I’ve walked before in order to locate issues of relationships of single mothers with men within the framework of gifts, gratitude, and exchange as these concepts are outlined by Hochschild.” Pei-Cha Lan’s (New York Univ.) presentation made visible the work of domestic workers and their employers to maintain a constantly negotiated invisible boundary between them. And Karen V. Hansen (Brandeis Univ.) and Dhooleka Sarhadi Raj (Yale Univ.) ended the session with a sophisticated explanation of how the relationship between the ideology of mother-blame (in popular culture and in academic studies) and the material reality of the structural squeeze exacerbates the care crisis in the United States.

The plenary talk on “The Cult of Cheerfulness” kept the audience chuckling while Barbara Ehrenreich claimed her right to be crotchety and gave a scathing critique of the ideology that thinking positive is all one needs to gain riches, fame, and good health. In the final session of the day, attendees in the packed

(continued on next page)

ballroom were treated to a conversation in which Hochschild’s longtime colleague and friend, Troy Duster, asked her some insightful questions about, among other things, her entry into sociology, the theorists to whom she is indebted, and her perspectives on the practice of writing. Hochschild noted that she jotted down her thoughts as they came to her, gathering them

up later to see what was taking shape. In her first and second drafts she sought not to be self-critical, but simply to write, and only around the fourth draft would she show it to others for feedback – and then keep at it through the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth drafts. Her comments highlighted the way in which writing is a process where ideas develop over time.



Barbara Ehrenreich

Hochschild not only shared her own writing rituals and practices, but also gave this advice: “Take your mind seriously – believe in it. . . Just write. Don’t be hard on yourself on the first draft – get it out!” She also challenged sociologists to write clearly. “Writing in plain English is not about dumbing work down,” but rather about “conveying complex ideas clearly.”

Hochschild was in the audience, front and center, all day – engaging with presenters’ ideas and confirming the importance of being conceptual. The response to the conference was overwhelmingly positive; one participant noted that “Bringing Arlie together with ESS scholars who work within similar frameworks and spending the day talking about our research and ideas was an energizing experience.” It was a grand day and a celebration of a grand sociologist

Anita I. Garey (University of Connecticut)



Phil Kasinitz and Nancy Denton



Patricia Hill and Elizabeth Higgenbotham



Lorber, Anderson, and Gerson

## Wuthnow awarded the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award 2007

“...American tradition allows for the extension of legal rights ... but not the development of a cultural understanding...”

The recipient of the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award for 2007 is Robert Wuthnow for his book *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity*. This timely, relevant, thoughtful analysis of religious pluralism in the United States is sure to inform how we understand not only our religious identities but also our relationships and our legal and political practices.

*America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity* identifies a kind of religious and cultural schizophrenia among Christian Americans, who take pride in their Christianity but profess respect and “tolerance” of other religions. The American tradition allows for the extension of legal rights to Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, and Muslims, but not the development of a cultural understanding of these religions. We just say we want “diversity” – something that Wuthnow says our commodified culture has turned into a cherished good in itself – but we trivialize or ignore the holidays, dietary restrictions, modes of dress, and other cultural practices that actually give meaning to each religion.

Wuthnow, who is the *Andlinger* Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, makes his conclusions on the basis of a comprehensive body of evidence. In an ambitious data collection process that lasted three years, Wuthnow incorporated over three hundred in-depth interviews with Muslims, Hindus, Jews, Buddhists, and Christians in fourteen cities across the country. He also analyzed a new survey of 2,910 adults called the Religion and Diversity Survey. Triangulating his methodological approach, Wuthnow also examined hundreds of primary and secondary historical documents, in order to investigate the question: How have Christian Americans been able to uphold their belief in their distinctiveness in the face of increasing religious diversity?

This diversity, he argues, is the big elephant in the room for this century. We don’t want to face it, and we pray that our democratic tradition will take care of any conflicts that arise from it. We rely on the media to shape the parameters of our knowledge about it, staying cloistered in our private worlds to discuss—or ignore—what it all means. The challenge of religious diversity, Wuthnow argues, is a challenge to all Americans about our sense of identity and the strength of our character as a people. Wuthnow’s profound conclusions, based on his methodological imagination and rigor, make him the very worthy recipient of this year’s Eastern Sociological Society Mirra Komarovsky Book Award.

Ivy Kennelly



Kennelly and *Challenges of Religious Diversity* by Wuthnow

## Summer Registration is now open

### Institute for Creative Collaboration and Conflict Resolution

“...offer a comprehensive set of courses the emphasize competencies in collaborative governance and problem-solving...”

The Summer Institute on Creative Collaboration and Conflict Resolution is an annual collaboration of Syracuse University Summer Sessions and the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts (PARC). The institute was established in 1973 to offer a comprehensive set of courses that emphasize competencies in collaborative governance and problem-solving, and dispute resolution and conflict management. This year the Institute offers 5 different, 3-credit, one week courses (listed below). Additionally, a limited number of seats are available for individuals who wish to take Institute courses as noncredit, professional development workshops. (Information about the non-credit workshop option, including the fee and registration form can be found at the below website). Course descriptions are located at the PARC website at: <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/parc/summerinstituteoverview.asp>

Summer 2007 Courses  
Interpersonal Conflict Resolution Skills  
May 14-18  
Instructors: Katz, Mischenko  
PAF 420, SOS 620

Negotiation: Theory & Practice  
May 20-25  
Instructors: Rubinstein, Soderquist  
PAF 422, SOS 622, IRP 400, IRP 600

Culture & Conflict  
June 3-8

Instructors: Castro  
ANT 477, ANT 677

Mediation: Theory & Practice  
June 10-15  
Instructor: Herrman  
PAF 421, SOS 621

Collaborative Governance and Public  
Dispute Resolution

June 17-22  
Instructor: Amsler, Blomgren-Bingham

SOS 600

To Register go to the Syracuse Continuing Education Website at  
<http://www.suce.syr.edu/>

Program on the Analysis and Resolution  
of Conflicts (PARC)  
400 Eggers Hall  
Syracuse NY 13224  
Telephone: 315-443-2568  
e-mail: [parc@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:parc@maxwell.syr.edu)

## A Conversation with Craig Calhoun

Michael McQuarrie



Photo credit: Robert Ramos

One of the emerging attractions of the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society has been sessions devoted to informal “conversations” with prominent sociologists. This year’s meeting was distinguished by a conversation with New York University Professor of Social Sciences, Craig Calhoun.

Calhoun’s work is remarkable for its diversity so it was an open question which themes would be taken up for discussion. The moderator of the panel gamely tried to open the discussion by postulating that one of the themes that unifies Calhoun’s work on issues such as nationalism, the public sphere, identity politics, and the privatization of risk is a concern with social solidarity. Calhoun elaborated that he is very concerned with the issue of connections across lines of difference, a concern he argued goes to the very heart of what society is and, consequently, should be a concern for sociology in general. Rather than simply ask about the extent of connectedness, or the density of connectedness, Calhoun said, “I’ve been interested in when and how these connections can be chosen and reshaped, can be more democratic, can be the product of our action, rather than only the effect of things that happen to us.”

For Calhoun this is a question that should be a central sociological concern, but such big issues frequently get lost amid the particular concerns of the various fragmented subfields of the discipline. While these subfields certainly play a role and are something of an inevitable outcome of the growth of the membership of the ASA, the requisite effort to link more specialized concerns to the unifying issues of the discipline as a whole is often lacking. So, for example, even though numerous ASA sections are concerned with issues of

politics and democracy, Calhoun says: “It strikes me as a pity that there isn’t more of a sociology of democracy. There is a political science of various formal processes of elections and so forth. But the sociological conditions of making a life together, and making it chooseable, is an underdeveloped theme in sociology.”

Imagining democracy as being integrally about collectively arranging the world in desirable ways rather than a set of institutional arrange-

ments or deliberative conventions resulted in a discussion of public sociology and the role of sociological knowledge in making a contribution to the politics of world-making. Calhoun registered optimism at the potential prominence of sociology in public debate on issues such as immigration, gender, and identity. For example, there is no obvious reason why much of the public and political discussion of citizenship should be theoretically framed by the concerns of political philosophy and law: “There is sociological knowledge that is crucially needed in these debates. And the ability to think about these things from the point of view of immigrants rather than from the point of view of the state is much better developed in sociology than it is in law and political science.”

Calhoun argued that sociology is a discipline that is closely tied to the concerns of society as a whole and we are currently in a moment when sociological concerns are prominent in public discussion. Despite this potential, the promise of sociology is severely tempered by institutional barriers, such as the way sociologists tend to get wrapped up with reproducing the discipline rather than shaping it, the way prestige and remuneration get tied to particularly insular forums, and the challenges presented by the structural transformation of the university and the radical redistribution of wealth from public to private universities. There are also numerous intellectual barriers, such as the way so much sociological work becomes wrapped up with accounting for percentage points of variation or narrow and static modes of conceptualization. There are real intellectual and political costs to the compartmentalization of investigation. For example, when we conceptualize the cultural or the economic as distinct social

realms rather than dimensions of social life we don’t just lose analytical leverage, we reify existing social relations. Such compartmentalization, “makes the economic seem much more necessary and inevitable than it really is, as though there are no choices there... and so the illusion of false necessity in the economy gets reinforced by saying that there is this other realm of culture in which individuals act expressively rather than instrumentally.”

One area where we might expect Calhoun to think through the relationship between topical public concerns and sociology is the theoretical. He stated his regret that theory is often extremely disconnected, not only from public issues, but from much of the discipline itself. Calhoun invoked the late French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu as a model of someone who bridged a common distinction between theoretical and empirical work as well as the distinction between public issues and professional ones. In concluding this point Calhoun argued: “We need to think in sociology often of the production of knowledge that we need to engage very important public issues... but the same project will almost never be simply using preestablished knowledge. If it’s a really rich and challenging project, it will be combining the effort to put that preexisting knowledge to work with new discovery. That engagement, in turn, leads to the discovery of where that knowledge was shaky or where the world might have changed.

Despite his concerns about the institutional and intellectual limitations of sociology as it is currently practiced, Calhoun repeatedly framed his concerns within a broader attachment to the promise and potential of sociology as both a discipline and an intellectual project to bring sociological knowledge to bear in the public sphere. For example, Calhoun argued: “Not surprisingly, I think sociology is still far preferable to any other discipline, but my sense is that sociology’s public presence is actually improving. To be sociological about that claim, that’s not because we suddenly got smarter. It is because a variety of these issues are on the public agenda... My hope is that sociology will continue to come to the forefront of discussion as a counter balance to the desire to have privatized market solutions to everything.”

## The Origins of Sociological Forum: An Ode to Robin M. Williams

*Remarks by Charles Hiirschman at the session honoring Robin Williams in Philadelphia.*

*Sociological Forum* is entering its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of publication as the official journal of the Eastern Sociological Society. The journal has published articles and review essays by sociological luminaries and has also been the venue for many first time authors who went on to become prominent sociologists. The current editor, Karen Cerulo of Rutgers, follows in the distinguished footsteps of prior editors including Robert Max Jackson, Richard Hall, and Stephen Cole. In this essay, I recall the founding of *Sociological Forum* and its founding editor, Robin M. Williams, Jr., who edited the first 7 volumes from 1986 to 1992. The death of Robin Williams in 2006 at age 91 marks the passing of one of the sociological giants of the 20<sup>th</sup> century whose vision shaped the origins and the evolution of *Sociological Forum*.

The story begins in the early 1980s when I joined the faculty of Cornell University. At the time, my image of Cornell sociology was Robin Williams. His work on race and ethnic relations had influenced my research and teaching, and I was looking forward to meeting him. He was out of town at the time of my job interview, but even in his absence, Robin Williams was most-talked about person in the department. He had passed the traditional retirement age of 65, but he was still teaching more courses than anyone on the active faculty. When Cornell had reduced the faculty teaching load some years earlier, Williams saw no reason to cut back. Moreover, as one Cornell faculty member told me, Robin Williams continued to advise more graduate students and publish more than anyone else in the department. I wasn't sure if these comments were ones of praise or envy, but there was a general feeling that Williams was a rate-buster, and his colleagues would breathe a bit easier when he faced the then mandatory retirement age of 70.

My initial contacts with Robin Williams were pleasant and friendly, but in a formal sort of way. His office was down the hall from mine, and he was there everyday from morning to late afternoon. His office door was always open, and there was a steady parade of students to his door. A couple junior colleagues mentioned that I might wish to drop in on one of the Robin Williams lunches at the faculty club. Robin Williams was a regular at a lunch table that anyone could join, but there was always a core group of senior faculty drawn from across campus. They didn't talk about research or politics, but told stories about the past, poked fun at each other, and laughed a lot. In those days, I thought that serious faculty members should talk about serious matters and I didn't see the point of long lunchtime conversations on such inconsequential topics. I attend only one lunch and never returned.

In my second year at Cornell, I was acting departmental chair for a semester. This gave me an opportunity to try out ideas for my self-assigned task of making everyone more serious. After observing that departmental discussions about job candidates were superficial and uninformed by a thorough reading of the files, I recommended that each faculty member write a memo on the pros and cons of each candidate prior to the meeting at which job candidates would be discussed. My proposal meant with complete silence. Finally, Robin Williams ex-

plained that my proposal would add to everyone's workload and would not serve any useful purpose. Clearly, I had not impressed my senior colleagues, especially Professor Williams.

My missionary zeal for departmental upliftment was slowed down only temporarily. Pretty soon, I had another idea. Why not start a new sociological journal. Chicago had *AJS*, and UNC had *Social Forces*, so perhaps Cornell Sociology might move upward with an innovative journal with a distinctive voice. The Eastern Sociological Society was the only major regional association without a journal, so there seemed to be an empty niche that we might fill.

I engaged a couple of accomplices among my colleagues, but we had neither the credentials nor credibility to convince the high muckety-mucks of the ESS Executive Committee. We did have one good idea, however, name to enlist Robin Williams to serve as the designated editor. Our senior colleagues at Cornell politely advised against even asking Robin Williams. He had just turned 70 and was about to retire; why would he want edit a new journal.

Nonetheless, I sent Robin Williams a draft copy of our proposal and requested an appoint to talk with him. After hearing me out, Robin gave me one of his stern looks and asked me if we were just trying to use the "Robin Williams" name to make the proposal look good. I stuttered and stammered, and insisted that he was clearly the best person to serve as editor, but I acknowledged that having the Robin Williams name would be helpful. Robin laughed and said that he often used the Robin Williams name whenever it might be useful. He said that we could use his name on our proposal, but was doubtful that the ESS would go for it.

We submitted the proposal and were invited to make a proposal to the Executive Committee at the next ESS meetings. Robin and Marguerite were off to Europe, so it was left to my accomplices and me to make the case. Our initial reception was not positive. In response to our argument that having a journal would benefit the Society, some executive committee members responded that the absence of an journal was not an oversight, but a conscious decision to focus ESS energies on intellectual discussions at the meetings rather than editing a pedestrian journal. Others thought that there was no need for new sociological journal and the ESS would be embarrassed if a second rate publication would result. However, these words were countered with a reassurance that anything that Robin Williams would edit would certainly be first rate. We also scored point when mentioning that ESS presidential addresses were not routinely published, and that many of the fine papers presented at the ESS annual meetings would be first priority for inclusion in an official journal of the Society. The ESS Executive Committee were also concerned with our business plan, but we had done considerable homework, and had the figures to suggest that a journal was a viable proposal with a modest increase in ESS dues and if we could obtain a few hundred library subscriptions. Some months later, after an exchange of letters between the ESS leadership and Robin Williams to confirm his commitment, the ESS gave its blessing.

For reasons that were not immediately obvious to me, Robin Williams was energized with the prospect of launching a new

sociological journal and assumed complete leadership of the planning process. He told me that he was disappointed earlier in his career when he was asked to edit ASR and there was insufficient collegial support to do so. This time it was different. Robin assembled a first rate team editorial board that included Cornell sociologists from across the campus, including Rural Sociology, ILR, Human Ecology as well as luminaries from around the country, such as Ruth Coser, Paul DiMaggio, Mel Kohn, Cora Marrett, Terry Sullivan, Glen Elder, William Foote Whyte, Morris Rosenberg, Doris Wilkinson, and many more. He worked the Deans across Cornell campus as well as the Provost for interim subsidies and hired a first rate managing editor. In one of his most brilliant moves, he recruited Chuck Tilly to serve as the first book review editor. Tilly established a style of long review essays with editorial introductions that became a permanent feature of Sociological Forum.

With Robin in charge, I felt that my job in starting a new journal was done, and looked for new opportunities for my mission to make Cornell Sociology more serious. You may not be surprised to know that very few of my ideas meet with any success.

I went on sabbatical the following year, far away from Ithaca in Australia, and wasn't thinking about the new journal. One day, when reading a Cornell newsletter, I came across a brief item that mentioned a new sociological journal that was to be edited by Robin Williams. After reading this, I sent a congratulatory note to Robin on the success of our fledging journal. By return post, I received the one and only angry letter that I ever received from Robin Williams. It seems that everything that could go wrong had gone wrong. The promised support from ESS had all but evaporated and a lot of other people who made promises of support were nowhere to be seen. He was losing sleep, and at his age, he did not need to all the problems that I had foisted on him. And exactly what was I doing on sabbatical in Australia? Hadn't I promised him that I would support this new journal? I wrote back with all the apology that I could muster and said that I would return to Ithaca as soon as possible.

When I appeared in Robin's office a couple months later, some of the impending financial clouds had disappeared, but he has still upset with me for leaving town when I was needed to help run the journal. He told me that I had gotten him into this mess, and I had better enlist for the duration. He didn't ask me, but told me that I would be his deputy editor.

For the two years, Robin worked pretty much full time on Sociological Forum, and I probably worked half time. I tried to compartmentalize my role, since I was teaching full time and tried to hold together an ambitious research agenda. But as Robin Williams' deputy editor, I was obligated to (try to) keep pace with his expectations for a good editorial team. My idea of running a journal was to send promising submissions out to review and then make decisions after the reviews came in. If the

reviews were positive, then and only then would the editors have to read the paper before making the final editorial decision.

This was not Robin Williams' style. He read every submission upon arrival. If the external reviews were not up to snuff, he would write his own detailed reviews (anonymously – labeled as reviewer C). Even if the decision was to reject, he offered detailed comments on how the paper might be revised. If a paper were provisionally accepted, he offered specific instructions on organization as well as substance. And after acceptance of a paper, each paper was given the full editorial treatment. Of course, we had a managing editor to copyedit accepted papers, but Robin believed that the editors should edit every paper for to

eliminate redundancy, to organize the logical flow of ideas and analysis, and to enhance clarity of expression.

Once I spent the better part of a couple days editing an accepted paper of an eminent sociologist who was later to be an ASA president. The managing editor received a polite thank you note for her excellent copy-editing of the manuscript.

One day, Robin Williams explained that editors should never expect gratitude for a job well done. Authors of rejected papers were understandably angry with the editors. The authors of accepted papers felt that the editors had just done a competent job. Even if we had substantially rewritten most of the published papers, our responsibility was to give full credit to our authors and to remain invisible.

There were quarterly meetings with the local editorial board and weekly meetings of the editors (Robin, the managing editor, and me) to review the status of each submission under consideration. I was expected to comment on the merits of

every paper under review as well as the qualifications of reviewers. In addition, Robin would come to my office once or twice a week to drop off a manuscript on which he wanted my opinion. He expected my response the following day. He did not simply want to know whether I liked or disliked a paper, but if the methods were appropriate, the theory was clear, and the unique contribution of the paper. It was impossible to keep up with Robin's pace of work, and it was all that I could do to just keep up the pretence that I was his deputy editor.

Starting a new journal is quite different than running an established one. Papers that came in over the transom were very uneven and we were constantly scouting for new and innovative research at ASA and ESS meetings. We also ran our own business office. All ESS members were automatic subscribers, but we wanted to establish a national readership, and most of all, library subscriptions that would be the key to financial solvency. My father had been a small businessman and wrote advertising copy, and so I drew upon my heritage in writing solicitation letters, brochures, and subscription forms to increase our subscriber base up. Although I was loathe to admit it, I greatly enjoyed my





Phil Kasinitz addresses the Society in Philadelphia

**“We would like to extend an invitation to the ESS membership to join the Eastern Region Chapter of SWS.”**

## Ethnic Anti-Communist Activities: Contributors Wanted for Volume

Contributors are wanted for an edited volume on ethnic anti-Communist activities during the Cold War era in the United States, with a particular emphasis on such political refugee groups as Estonians, Lithuanians, Poles, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Hungarians, Rumanians, Czechs, Slovaks, Albanians, Bulgarians, Hmong, Chinese and Cubans.

The project is in the early stages of its preparation and the editor is searching for possible authors interested in writing a chapter on any of these particu-

lar refugee groups.

The goal of this volume is to highlight the unique approach to anti-Communism taken by these refugee groups, their political ideas as well as the conflicts and dilemmas they encountered while pursuing their opposition to Communism in the US between World War II and the collapse of the USSR and beyond.

Although there is quite vast literature available on the anti-Communism in the United States, the piece about the eth-

nic anti-Communism is consistently missing. This volume is intended as a way to reveal the complex and to this day not accounted for history of refugee political activism.

Experts on these particular refugee groups, who use historical, political science and/or sociological methods and are interested in this project, are welcomed to contact the Contributing Editor:

Ieva Zake  
Department of Sociology  
Rowan University  
[zake@rowan.edu](mailto:zake@rowan.edu)

## Eastern Chapter of Sociologist for Women in Society

**ESWS: The Eastern Region Chapter of Sociologists for Women in Society**  
*Laura West Steck, Tamara Smith, and Denise Copelton (ESWS chapter officers)*

The Eastern Region chapter of Sociologists for Women in Society met in Philadelphia during the 2007 Annual ESS Meetings. Members in attendance contributed a variety of ideas for ways in which the chapter can meet our primary objective: to serve as a networking resource for SWS/ESS members. The ESWS complements the ESS Committee on the Status of Women, which promotes and highlights the success of women in the ESS organization, emphasizes the challenges that women continue to face in the organization and the profession, provides panels and training focused on women's academic, professional and research issues, and alerts the larger ESS audience to the importance of understanding how these issues affect women.

Proposed chapter activities included plans for an “intergenerational” networking dinner to be held annually at ESS meetings. The chapter would invite renowned ESS/SWS members to dinner, offering others the opportunity to communicate and connect with influential women sociologists. Our focus on “intergenerational” places emphasis on years of experience and influence in the field rather than age.

Chapter members have also begun planning a regional extension of the SWS Hand Program, a program named after the late Jeanne Hand, a

sociology Ph.D. candidate from Tulane University and active SWS member. The Eastern Region Hand Program will connect senior ESS/SWS members with junior ESS/SWS members during both annual ESS and SWS meetings. As is the tradition in the national SWS Hand Program, “senior” members are defined as any ESS/SWS member who has attended a meeting in the past.

The ESWS Chapter also plans to set up an SWS table at future ESS meetings, which will provide information about the national organization and the Eastern Region chapter. If possible, the Chapter also plans to staff an SWS hospitality suite at ESS meetings to serve as a gathering space for SWS members attending ESS meetings, as well as for anyone else interested in joining the Eastern Chapter of SWS and/or the national SWS organization.

Finally, the ESWS Chapter plans to organize and/or cosponsor workshops, panels, and other sessions with standing ESS committees focused on networking issues, strategies, and tips. These sessions would extend the principal mission of the Chapter: to offer resources that assist sociologists in building professional connections within sociology and other related disciplines.

We would like to extend an invitation to the ESS membership to join the Eastern Region Chapter of SWS. If you are interested in being added to the ESWS chapter email list, please contact Laura West Steck at [lsteck@ycp.edu](mailto:lsteck@ycp.edu).

## Future Annual Meetings

**New York, NY**  
**Roosevelt Hotel**  
**February 21-24, 2008**

**Baltimore, MD**  
**Sheraton Inner Harbor**  
**March 12-15, 2009**

## The New York State Sociological Association (NYSSA)

### 55th Annual Meeting

#### *Sociology and the Real World: Activism, Advocacy, Research, and Social Policy*

October 5 and 6, 2007  
St. Francis College  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Submit papers and poster abstracts or suggestions by July 1, 2007  
Submit papers for Annual Undergraduate & Graduate Student Paper  
Award by June 15, 2007

All submissions should be sent as Word or PDF attachments to  
Dr. Jaskiran Mathur at [jmathur@stfranciscollege.edu](mailto:jmathur@stfranciscollege.edu)

Keynote Speaker: Stanley Aronowitz,  
Graduate Center, CUNY

Plenary Speaker: Debra Minkoff, Barnard  
College, Columbia University

For more details, see [www.stfranciscollege.edu](http://www.stfranciscollege.edu) and the official  
NYSSA website: [www.newyorksociologist.org](http://www.newyorksociologist.org)

For questions, contact Dr. Jaskiran Mathur, President NYSSA  
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, St. Francis College,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201, Phone: 718-489-5476 Fax: 718-522-1274

## 1968: Impact and Implications

### BSA Theory Study Group Conference in collaboration with Birkbeck Institute for Social Research

3-4th July, 2008, Birkbeck, University of London

This conference is timed to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of May 1968. It seeks to provide a forum for reflecting back on the events of that time as well as thinking about their implications for current and future endeavours – theoretical and political. Alongside plenary events with keynote speakers and roundtables, there will also be a number of parallel paper sessions.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (confirmed):

**William Outhwaite**, Professor of Sociology and Social and Political Thought, University of Sussex, author of *The Future of Society, Social Theory and Postcommunism* (with Larry Ray) and contributor to *The Disobedient Generation: Social Theorists in the Sixties*

**Ken Plummer**, Professor of Sociology, University of Essex, author of *Inventing Intimate Citizenship* and editor of *Sexualities: Critical Assessments*

**Lynne Segal**, Professor of Psychology and Gender Studies, Birkbeck College, author of *Making Trouble*

Those interested in presenting papers or organizing sessions on the topics listed above are invited to submit proposals to the conference organizing team by September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. For paper presentations please submit an abstract of up to 300 words, specifying the stream you would like to be considered for, to [Debbie.Brown@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:Debbie.Brown@britsoc.org.uk); if you would like to organize a panel session please email us a brief synopsis of the session together with contributors and titles of papers; for posters please email us a short outline of your ideas.

#### Conference Organizing Team:

Gurminder K. Bhambra (Warwick), Ipek Demir (Leicester), Helen Gregory (Exeter), Timo Juetten (Sussex), Steve Kemp (Edinburgh), Maki Kimura (Open University), Sasha Roseneil (Birkbeck)



## ESS Winner's Circle for 2007



- **Candace Rogers Award:** Becky Hsu, Princeton University and Ryan Light, Ohio State University
- **Rose Laub Coser Award:** Danielle Bessett, New York University
- **Mirra Komarovsky Book Award:** Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University, for *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity*
- **2007-2008 Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lecturer:** Margaret Anderson, University of Delaware
- **ESS Merit Award:** Judith Lorber
- **Undergraduate Poster Winner:** Susan Ross, Lycoming College

From the left: Robin Leidner, Judith Lorber, Elizabeth Higginbotham, Ivy Kennelly, Margaret Anderson, Susan Ross, *Em Who is*

### The Origins of Sociological Forum (Continued from page 13 )

editorial and business roles.

Sociological Forum was an immediate critical success. The first issue had Rose Coser's ESS presidential address and additional articles by Cynthia Epstein, Michael Hannan, Mel Kohn, Guy Swanson, and Harrison White. A special section called "Notes and Insights" had provocative essays by Charles Page and Charles Perrow. The new Reviews Essays editor, Chuck Tilly wrote a marvelous reflective piece on differences in the disciplines of sociology, history, and social history. In his statement on editorial policy, Robin called for articles that focused on social change and integrative articles that linked together subfields of the discipline.

The problems, especially financial, of producing *Sociological Forum* did not disappear, and this wore heavily on Robin's shoulders. The ESS had made a financial commitment to *Sociological Forum* that the organization had great difficulties in fulfilling. Robin was obliged to raise funds and he called in almost all of his chits from Cornell deans and successive Provosts, to cover the costs of *Sociological Forum* that the ESS could not. After several years, the ESS leadership decided that a commercial publisher had to be found to lower ESS financial commitments. This was a step backward – those costs of subscribing to non ESS members and to libraries jumped rapidly

and we lost readers if not revenues. For a number of years, I followed the number of library subscriptions as a mark of commercial success. The numbers were barely above those we had in the first few years when *Sociological Forum* as run as an in-house enterprise.

In retrospect, working with Robin Williams on *Sociological Forum* was perhaps the single most rewarding experience of my career. I have never felt so closely involved in so many different branches of the discipline. I learned editorial skills that have been important throughout my career. Most of all, I enjoyed working with Robin. I have never known anyone with as much theoretical breadth and with an uncanny ability to spot the germ of a good idea. He was able to spot weaknesses in argument or evidence that were clear to everyone, once he pointed them out, but not before. Most of all, I enjoyed listening to Robin's stories about his life, sociological ideas and research, and much more. We also laughed a lot. Perhaps, I was too quick to judge the content and the participants of the lunch table than Robin had always attended. Although I did not join his lunch table, I did learn that the goal of producing a more serious sociology had to be leavened with an appreciation for collegiality and laughter.

**"...working with Robin Williams .... As perhaps the single most rewarding experience of my career..."**



Undergraduate poster presentation



Maggie Anderson and Howard Taylor



Lareau and Lamont

## Noteworthy

**Debra Kaufman, Gerald Herman, James Ross and David Phillips** have a new book out entitled *From the Protocols of the Elders of Zion to the Holocaust Denial Trial: Challenging the Media, the Law and the Academy* published by Vallentine Mitchell. The text is a series of short essays that explore the methods and assumptions that explore the way in which racism and anti-Semitism is embodied in Holocaust denial.

**Minjeong Kim** (SUNY - Albany) has been selected as a 2007 Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellow in Women's Studies for her doctoral dissertation research on "Gendered International Marriage Migration: Filipina Wives in South Korean Rural Communities," for which she had received Honorary Mention of the Rose Laub Coser Award in 2005 from the ESS

*Getting Cut: Failing to Survive Surgical Residency Training*, is a new book by **Virginia Adams O'Connell** (Swarthmore). The book is published by University Press of America. It examines the factors that lead to a 16% dropout rate from graduate residency programs. It also explores how the culture of these institutions put women and minorities at a greater risk of withdrawal.

*SOCIOLOGISTS IN A GLOBAL AGE: Biographical Perspectives* is a new volume edited by **Mathieu Deflem** and published by Ashgate, Aldershot, UK. This volume brings together sixteen leading international sociologists to share their experiences of becoming practitioners in the field. Selected for their comparative and transnational interests and experiences, the contributors include: **Martin Albrow, Karin Knorr Cetina, Diane E. Davis, Pierpaolo Donati, Leon Grunberg, Horst J. Helle, Eiko Ikegami, Tiankui Jing, Hyun-Chin Lim, Ewa Morawska, Richard Münch, Saskia Sassen, Joachim J. Savelsberg, Piotr Sztompka, Edward A. Tiryakian and Ruut Veenhoven**. Each contributor provides an auto-biographical review of their journey into the discipline with special attention paid to the intellectual and social-political contexts in which their work matured. Each chapter concludes with comment on the future direction in which they see their area of sociology heading. These original and reflective contributions provide fascinating insights into the careers of sociologists living in a global age.

**Setsuko Matsunaga Nishi**, (Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, CUNY Emerita) received the *2007 Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Association for Asian American Studies.

**Margaret L. Andersen Rosenfeld**: *On Land and On Sea: A Century of Women in the Rosenfeld Collection*, published by Mystic Seaport Museum. This is a beautiful coffee table book with sociological content.

*Designing Clothes* is a new book by **Veronica Manlow**. This fascinating examination of the business and culture of the fashion industry is published by Transaction Publishers and will be released in June.

Stanford University Press released on April 9 a new study of the dynamics of ethnic political solidarity between immigrant and second-generation Korean American Organizations in Koreatown amidst increasing class polarizations, intergenerational tensions, and residential dispersal. The book is by **Angie Y Chung** (University of Albany) is titled *Legacies of Struggle: Conflict and Cooperation in Korean American Politics*.

Pine Forge Press announces the publication of **Kathleen**

**Odell Korgen** (William Patterson University) and **Jonathan M. White's** (Bridgewater College) new edition of *The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*. This text brings the "public sociology" movement into the classroom, as it teaches students to use the tools of sociology to become effective participants in our democratic society. Through exercises and projects, the authors encourage students to practice the application of these tools in order to get both hands-on training in sociology and experience with civic engagement in their communities.

**Michele Dillon** (University of New Hampshire) and **Paul Wink** (Wellesley College) also have a new book: *In the Course of a Lifetime: Tracing Religious Belief, Practice, and Change\** (University of California Press, 2007). Nancy T. Ammerman, the author of *Pillars of Faith: American Congregations and their Partners, Building Traditions, Building Communities* says on the jacket cover that: "Dillon and Wink bring their combination of sociological and psychological perspectives to this landmark study, making possible a fascinating series of individual portraits--and a fresh new window on how life and faith have changed over the last century."

**Charles V. Willie**, Ph.D., the Charles W. Eliot Professor of Education Emeritus, Harvard Graduate School of Education, received a U.S. Speaker and Specialist Grant Award from the U.S. State Department to lecture at the College of The Bahamas and elsewhere in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas during the celebration of Education Awareness Week and Black History Month 2007

*The Sociology of Aging: An International Perspective*, by Sloan Publishing, Cornwall-on-Hudson, a new book by **Daune A. Matcha** (Siena College), uses demographic data from the U.S., nine industrial democracies, China and India to compare exiting and emerging policies that impact the elderly. Issues examined in the book include: family relationships, living arrangements, health, politics, and economic well-being.

Also just out: **Victoria Pitts-Taylor** (CUNY, Queens College and the Graduate Center), *Surgery Junkies: Wellness and Pathology in Cosmetic Culture*, Rutgers University Press, 2007. This book examines why some cosmetic surgeries are considered acceptable or even beneficial and others to be unacceptable and possibly harmful. Drawing on years of research, her personal experience with cosmetic surgery, analysis of newspaper articles and television shows, and in-depth interviews with surgeons, psychiatrists, lawyers, judges, and others, **Pitts-Taylor** brings new perspectives to the promotion of "extreme" makeovers on television, the medicalization of "surgery addiction," the moral and political interrogation that many patients face, and feminist debates on the topic, all the while making a compelling argument that the experience, meanings, and motivations for cosmetic surgery are highly social.

**A. Greco, C.E. Rodriguez, and R. Wharton**, have a recent book entitled: *The Culture and Commerce of Publishing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. This work looks at whether publishing is a cultural or commercial undertaking. Drawing on both sociology and economics, the authors examine the substantive issues, challenges confronting the industry.



The Eastern Sociological Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in sociological scholarship and instruction. It has approximately 1000 members, most of whom live and work in the Northeastern United States. The ESS sponsors a professional journal (Sociological Forum), a four-day Annual Meeting in the spring, a newsletter, numerous award competitions, an employment service, and a listserv.

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